

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 AGR-20 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 FEA-02 PRS-01

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TAGS: EAID EAGR

SUBJ: FERTILIZER POLICY

REF: STATE 092531

SUMMARY: EMBOFF APPROACHED FONOFF AND MITI ALONG LINES
REFTEL. FONOFF REPS SAID THEIR THINKING RE FERTILIZER
PROBLEM STILL PRELIMINARY, BUT INTEREST GREAT, AND FONOFF
ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU PLANS THROUGH STUDY WITH OTHER
MINISTRIES. MITI REP SAID MOST EFFECTIVE SHORT TERM POLICY
FOR JAPAN WOULD BE SENDING EXPERTS TO LDC'S TO HELP INCREASE
PRODUCTION OF EXISTING FERTILIZER PLANTS. EMBASSY REQUESTS
COPIES OF TVA REPORT ON FERTILIZER. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 14, DRAWING ON REFTEL, EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH
FONOFF OFFICIALS (NISHIMURA, PLANNING DIVISION, ECONOMIC
COOPERATION BUREAU, AND FUKUDA, INTL TRADE DIVISION,
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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU) USG CONCERNS RE FERTILIZER

SHORTAGE. ON MAY 17 EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED MATTER WITH YAMAURA, CHEMICAL FERTILIZER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY. (MITI HAS PRIMARY JURISDICTION OVER CHEMICAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY.) IN BOTH CASES EMBOFF LEFT PAPER ENUMERATING USG CONCERNS CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. IN RESPONSE, FONOFF REPS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. FONOFF THINKING ON THIS PROBLEM STILL IN VERY PRELIMINARY STAGE, BUT ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU INTENDS TO UNDERTAKE THOROUGH STUDY IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES. FONOFF OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH DEVELOPMENT VIEW PROBLEM AS ONE OF QTE GREAT IMPORTANCE UNQTE.

B. GOJ HOPES JAPAN WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPLY FERTILIZER TO TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS, BUT, IN SHORT TERM, UNABLE GUARANTEE THAT PRIOR QUANTITIES (MUCH LESS INCREASED QUANTITIES) CAN BE DELIVERED.

C. OVER LONGER TERM, GOJ FEELS PRIORITY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ASSURE SUPPLY OF FERTILIZERS TO LDC'S. GOJ WILL BE STRESSING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING EXPANSION OF LDC FERTILIZER PRODUCTION CAPABILITY) IN ITS AID EFFORTS.

D. NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES (UN, OECD, IBRD, ADB) NOW STUDYING FERTILIZER PROBLEM. GOJ HAS ADVISED UN AND OECD IT READY TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDY OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND, BUT WOULD VIEW PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE BY THOSE COUNTRIES ABLE TO SUPPLY IT (READ OIL PRODUCERS) AS ESSENTIAL.

3. MITI REP RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS:

A. JAPAN IS GOING TO ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN PRIOR LEVELS OF FERTILIZER EXPORTS TO TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS. THUS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL EXPORTS TO ANY UNGA EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY AS MITI CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATES JAPAN'S EXPORTS MAY DECREASE AS MUCH AS 15 PERCENT IN COMING YEAR.

B. THUS, EASIER COURSE WOULD BE FOR JAPAN TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO BE USED TO PURCHASE FERTILIZERS TO BE GIVEN TO LDCS. MITI REP RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT EFFECT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS WOULD BE INCREASED DEMAND AND POSSIBLY HIGHER PRICES FOR FERTILIZER.

C. INCREASED JAPANESE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION NOT ANTICIPATED. THUS, OVER SHORT TERM, MOST EFFECTIVE JAPANESE POLICY TO HELP LDC'S WOULD BE DISPATCH OF EXPERTS TO RAISE PRODUCTION OF EXISTING PLANTS IN LDC'S. SHOESMITH

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